

# Tampere

## Overview

The stunning city of Tampere is located in Southern Finland, around 2 hours drive away from the capital city of Helsinki. Now the third largest city in Finland, it is becoming an increasingly popular tourist destination with both Finns and international visitors alike. Tampere has all the modern facilities you would expect from a large city, including ATM machines, tourist information centres and a number of Bureau De Change booths.

Tampere boasts beautiful scenery and lies idyllically between the two lakes of Näsijärvi and Pyhäjärvi, while a large gravel ridge allows for spectacular views of the area. Like most of Finland the streets are kept impeccably clean, and the city has a high quality air rating. Adventurous types can take part in outdoor activities, such as white water rafting, hiking and even skiing in the winter months. The city also has more relaxing activities such as thermal spas and saunas that will help you to unwind after a busy day of sight-seeing.

The city offers a whole host of restaurants, with cuisine to suit all tastes and pockets. For those wishing to sample some authentic dishes, head to a local cafe, where delights such as Lihapullat - Finnish meatballs with mashed potatoes and pickles - are served up. For a tasty treat try the infamous sweet Munkki donuts, which are enjoyed by locals in cafes around the city. Tampere also has a number of restaurants, serving up international foods, including Indian, Italian and French style eateries.

Shopping is a delight, particularly on the Hämeenkatu main street, which is home to well known international brands along with smaller boutique style shops. Traditional handicrafts can be purchased at the local markets, such as Laukontori and Tammelantori, while in December the Tampere Christmas market is the perfect place to pick up some last minute gifts.

From small family-run guesthouses to large chain hotels, the city offers an excellent choice of places to stay and caters to all budgets. The four star Skos Hotel Lives has beautiful rooms in a central location and is great for both business and leisure travellers, while the smaller Best Western Hotel offers more economical rooms for the budget conscious traveller.

The climate varies dramatically, from an average of -5°C in January, to 22°C in the hottest month of July. The snow season generally lasts from November to mid-April, and sees the city transformed into a winter wonderland. In the summer months Tampere has long hours of daylight, and mild to warm weather which has the cities parks filled up with locals who come to enjoy a picnic and a dip in the lake.